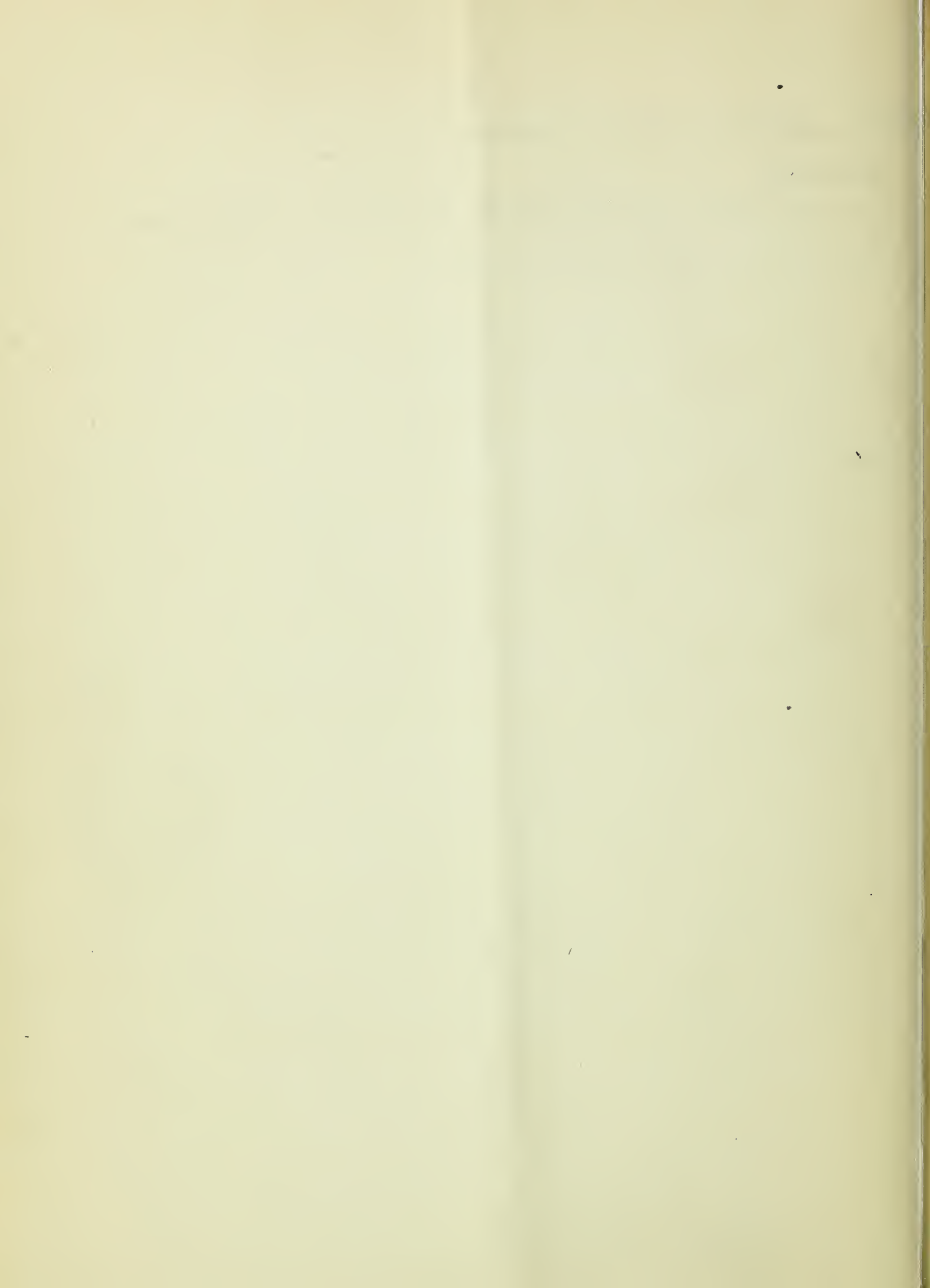


## **Historic, Archive Document**

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F O R T U N E S    W A S H E D    A W A Y

"GEORGE WASHINGTON'S SUCCESSOR"

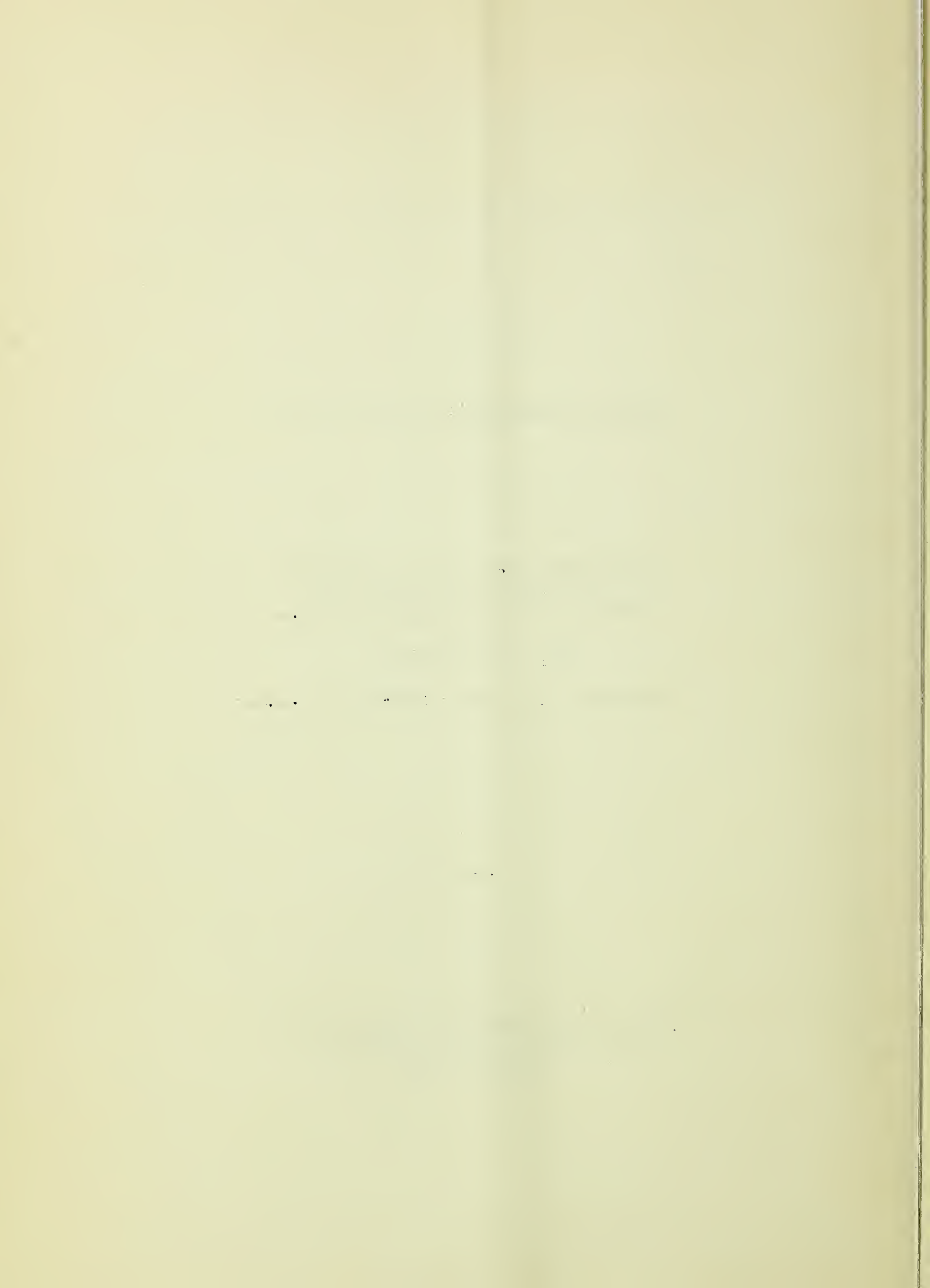
Broadcast No. 42 in a series  
of discussions of soil con-  
servation in the Ohio Valley.

WLW, Cincinnati

February 11, 1939 6:45-7:00 p.m.

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE  
Dayton, Ohio



SOUND: Thunder, followed by rain...

ANNOUNCER

Fortunes Washed Away!

ORGAN: I GET THE BLUES WHEN IT RAINS.

ANNOUNCER

Familiar to the heart of every American is the story of George Washington, the General; George Washington, First President of the United States. But few know the intensely human story of George Washington, the Farmer, who rode his fields, supervised the tilling of his soil, guarded its stewardship, conserved its fertility. Nearly 200 years ago, George Washington asked...

WASHINGTON (Voice out of past)

Keep me advised of the yields of the Siberian wheat. We prepared that land carefully. We sprinkled manure on it. We must gain further knowledge.

ORGAN: CARRY ME BACK TO OLD VIRGINNY.

ANNOUNCER

In 1933, a Virginia farm youth entered Falmouth high school, in Stafford County. His name, Hunter Roy Greenlaw. His farm, on the Rappahannock River, on land that had formerly been a part of the plantation where George Washington spent his boyhood. And like Washington, young Greenlaw's greatest ambition was to be a farmer...

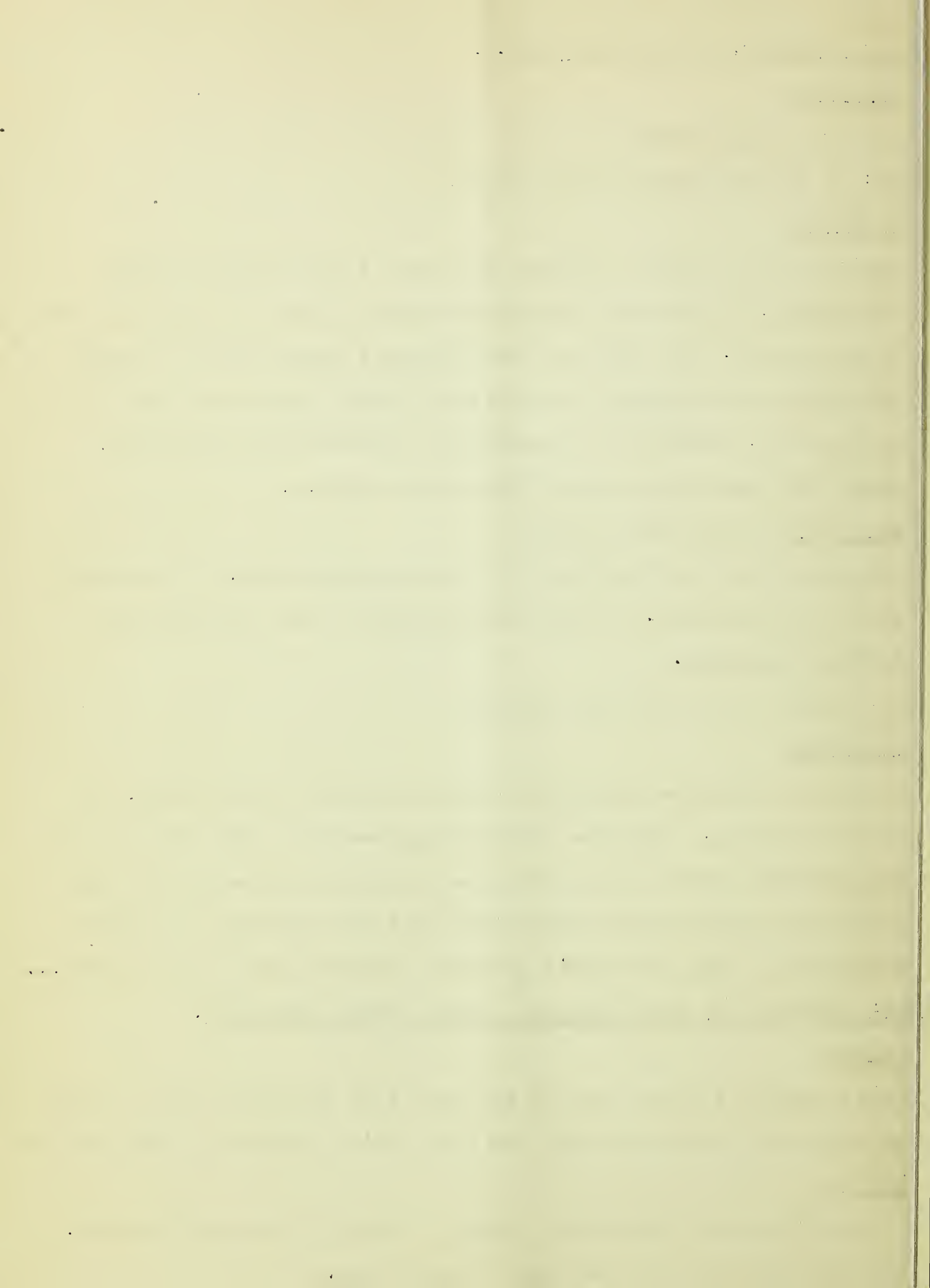
SOUND: Clinking of trace chains, horses coming into barn.

FATHER

Well, Hunter, I guess this is the last time you'll be able to help me much until next Saturday, now that you've started to high school.

HUNTER

I think I can get home early enough to help you some before dark. And I'll help you get the wheat in next week.



FATHER

Good.

HUNTER

And say, father...

FATHER

Yes?

HUNTER

I want you to let me have some land for my vo-ag projects, too.

FATHER

Your what?

HUNTER

Vo-ag projects. The idea is, father, that all the boys in our vocational agriculture class want to become members of the Future Farmers of America. In order to do that we have to have projects, that is, certain farm jobs on which we do all the work and keep accurate records.

FATHER

Well, now, that sounds like a good idea, Hunter. I wish I'd been more careful myself about keeping records. I guess farming has been a hit or miss proposition with me.

HUNTER

Heck, I'd be mighty proud to be as good a farmer as you are. And maybe I will, some day, after I learn a little more at school. Then with these projects, too...

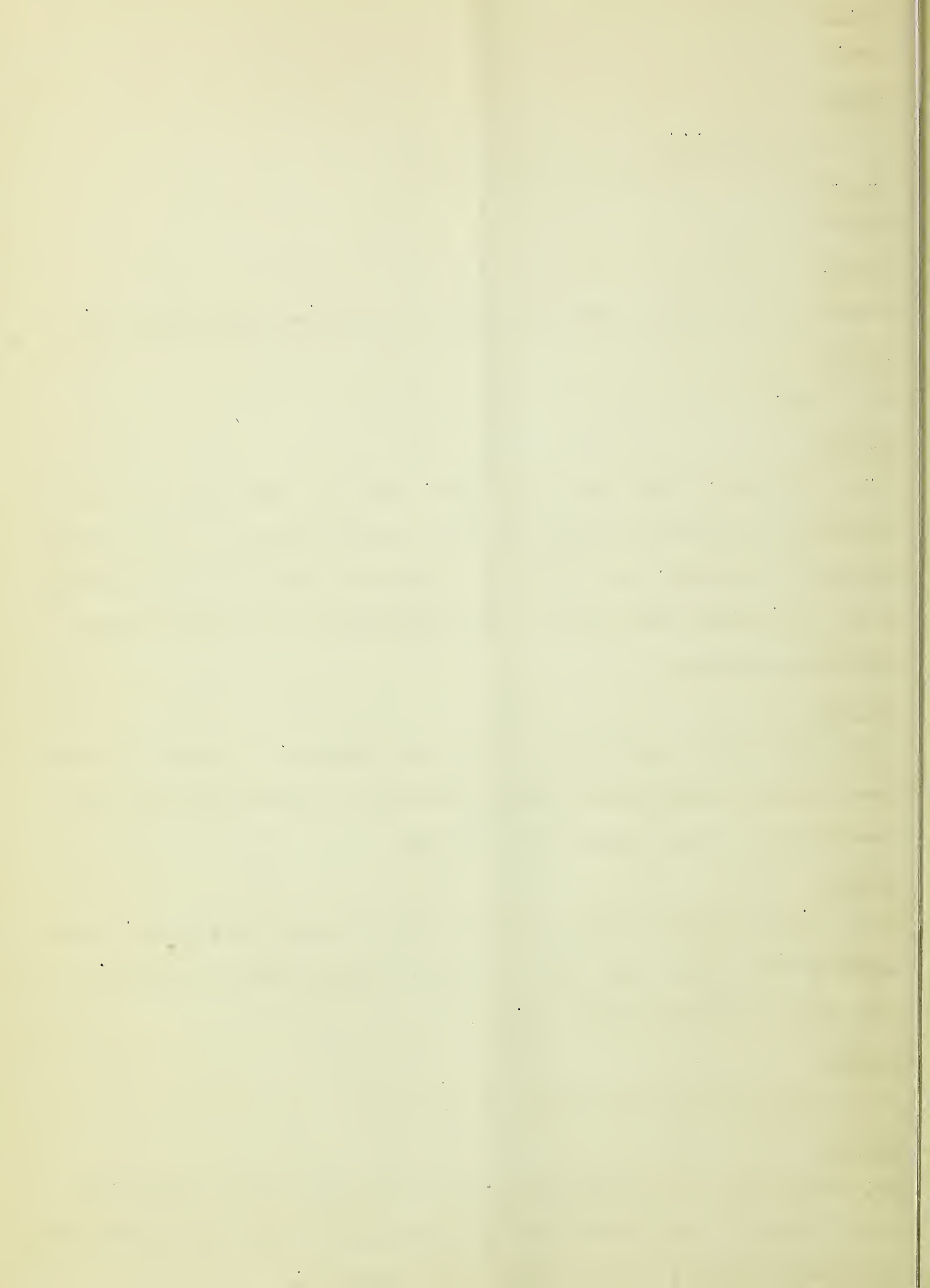
FATHER

Just what are these projects?

HUNTER

Mr. Young, our vocational agriculture teacher, said I could take three acres of corn, two acres of beans, and a calf for my projects this year. Then I want to seed some lespedeza.







FATHER

Sounds good! You do a man's share of the work on the farm already, but if you want some land for your own crops, you sure can have it. I'll give you that heifer calf, too.

HUNTER

Oh, gee, father, thanks.

FATHER

And say, that lespedeza will be just the thing for the steep part of the field over by the river. Mr. Preston showed...

HUNTER

He's the man from the CCC camp?

FATHER

Yes, you know him. He showed me where the land was washing some on that slope. He said we ought to seed it down.

HUNTER

That's just what I had in mind. I'll feed the horses now, and we can talk about it some more after supper.

SOUND: Harness flapping, chains clinking.

HUNTER

Come on, Queen. Let's get some water.

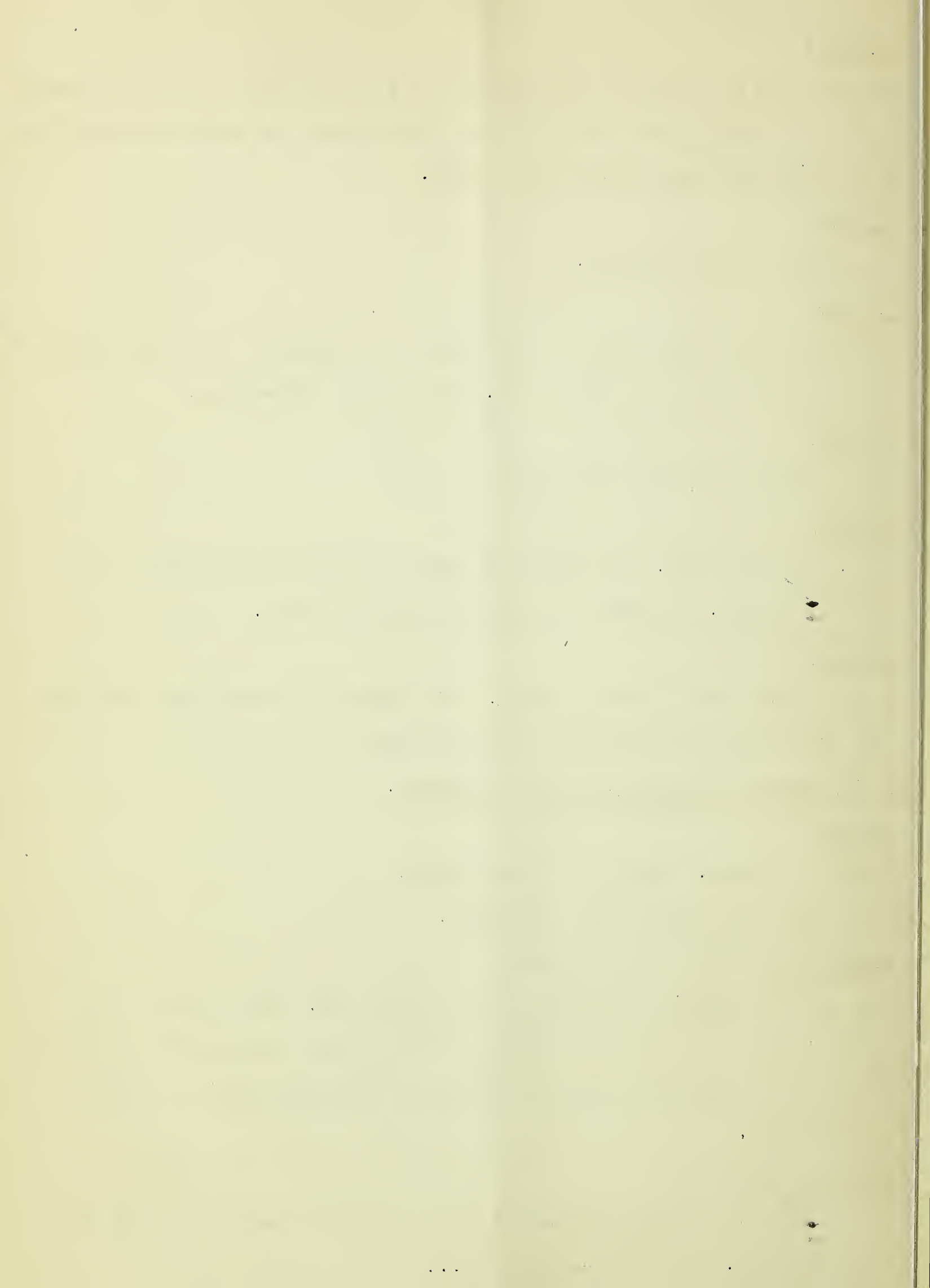
ORGAN: CARRY ME BACK TO OLD VIRGINNY.

WASHINGTON (Voice out of past)

The rain is washing gullies on the hillsides. Have some men go out tomorrow and fill all gullies with stones, straw, cornstalks-- anything to stop this work of erosion. We must think of future generations.

MOTHER(fading in)

Now that your father has passed away, Hunter, you have a big job ahead of you. This 385-acre farm...



HUNTER

It's a big farm, mother, but I can take care of you and Virginia.

MOTHER

But it's a big job that's fallen on your shoulders. Don't you think we ought to go live in the city with your sister? You can go to school there, you know.

HUNTER

But I want to live on the farm. I want to keep working on my projects. Some day I'm going to manage this whole farm just like I'm running my projects.

MOTHER

But your father would...

HUNTER

Father was an awfully good farmer. But, mother, he realized that he would have been a better farmer if he'd learned some of the things we're learning at school.

MOTHER

But, Hunter, you won't be able to run the farm and go to school, too.

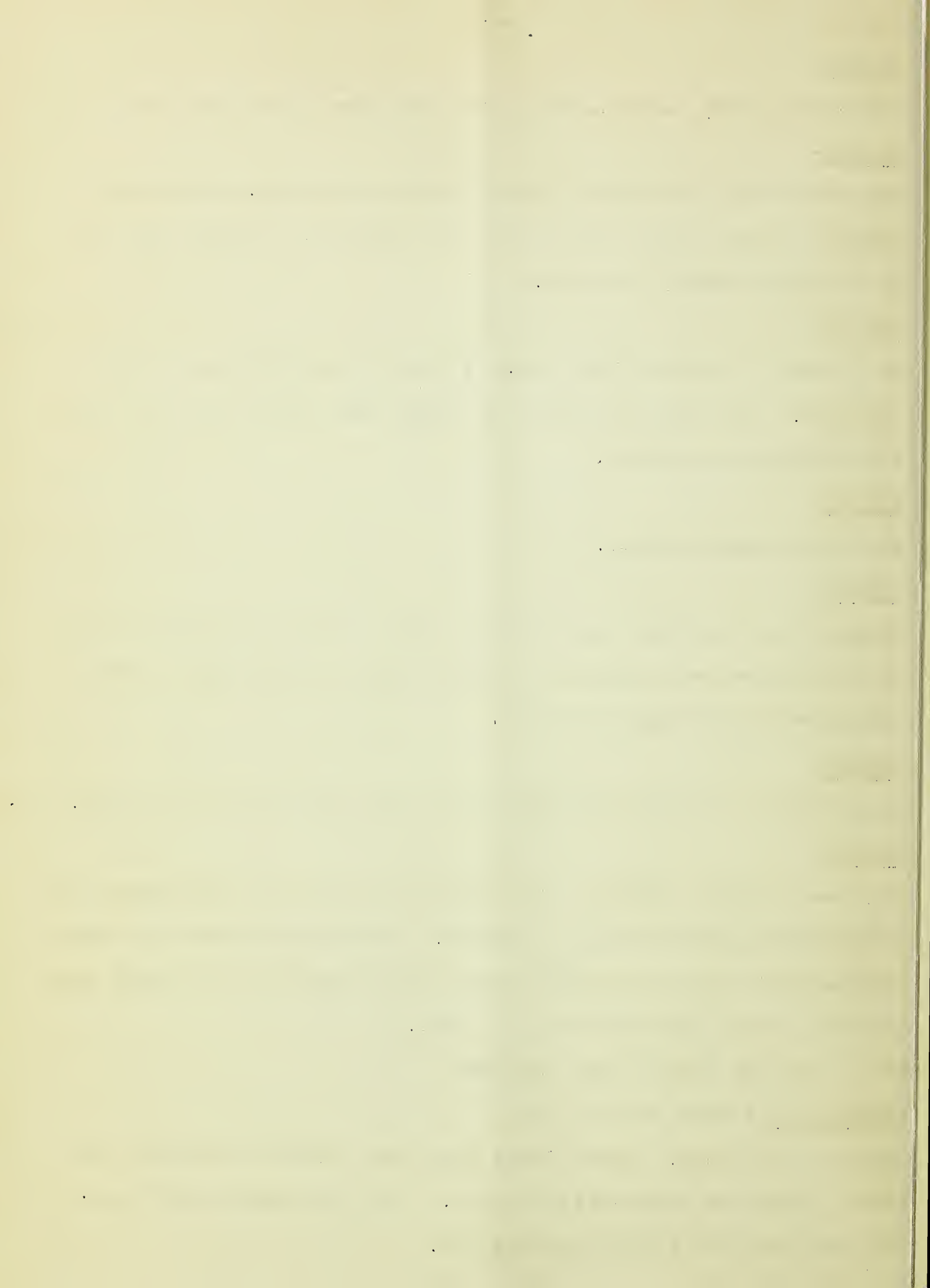
HUNTER

Oh, yes, I will, mother. I'll be out of school in the summer and I'll work night and day, if need be. Uncle Narcie owns the land and he said he would be willing to let me try it, if I would just pay the taxes, and build up the land...

ORGAN: CARRY ME BACK TO OLD VIRGINNY.

WASHINGTON (Voice out of past)

Build up the land. Plant fewer and fewer fields in tobacco and corn. They are clean-tilled crops. They are ruining the land. We must think of future generations.



HUNTER

This is the life I love, mother. I want to make a successful business out of farming.

MOTHER

You seem to be keeping up your records on the milk, all right.

HUNTER

And I've figured out a new marketing scheme. I'm going to separate the milk and sell the cream. They just pay for butterfat, anyway, and we can feed the skim milk to the hogs and chickens.

MOTHER

I guess you will want me to advertise milk-fed chickens, next.

HUNTER

That's not a bad idea, mother! It ought to bring you quite a little profit on the chickens you sell every year.

MOTHER

Now, listen here, young man. If you expect me to keep records on my chickens...

HUNTER

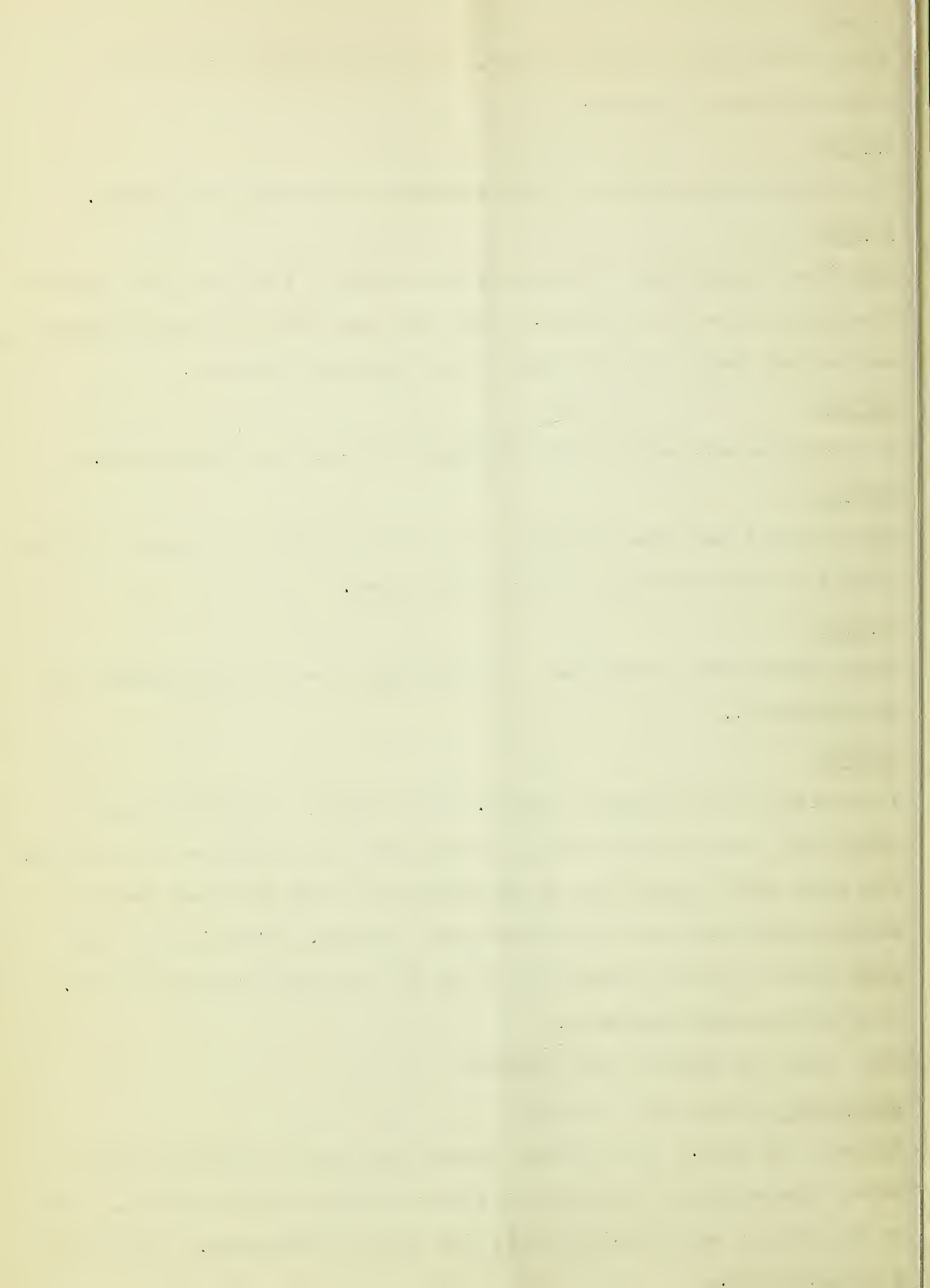
I promise not to do that, mother. But anyhow, something one of those soil erosion men told me about soil losses got me to thinking. You know Uncle Narcie has an agreement with the CCC camp about things they want him to do to control erosion. I'm going to use some lime on these fields and follow my corn with crimson clover. That will protect the soil.

ORGAN: CARRY ME BACK TO OLD VIRGINNY.

WASHINGTON (voice out of past)

Protect the soil. The general custom has been to raise a crop of corn, then a crop of wheat; after which the ground is rested. And so on without any dressing until the land is exhausted. I'm going to change that.





SOUND: Tractor approaching, halts, with motor idling...

YOUNG (fading in)

Hello, Hunter. Think you can stop working long enough to talk to me a minute? That tractor was puffing just now like it was a little tired.

HUNTER

It ought to be. It's covered some territory today. How are you, Mr. Young?

YOUNG

All right, Hunter. How does it feel to be a high school graduate, and an honor student?

HUNTER

Swell! Course, I'm mighty proud of winning the Balfour medal for being the most outstanding student of the senior class.

YOUNG

You ought to be! After being on all the athletic teams, the newspaper staff, president of the Ag club, in the senior play... I don't know what all.

HUNTER

They were a lot of fun. Most of all, I'm proudest of the way we've built up the farm. We've got some new equipment, too.

YOUNG

It's a fine record. But what I came over to see you about was, the state board has been checking over the records you kept on your projects.

HUNTER

Yes?





YOUNG

And they've picked you as one of the boys from Virginia to go to Kansas City to compete in the Future Farmers of America contest.

HUNTER

You mean...for the title of "Star Farmer of America?"

YOUNG

That's right.

HUNTER

Me? Whew!

YOUNG

Think you can find time to make the trip?

HUNTER

I don't know, Mr. Young. We're mighty busy on the farm right now.

YOUNG

Well, let's sit down in the shade and talk it over. You're pretty good at figuring things out. Maybe you can figure some way to keep the farm going while you're in Kansas City.

ORGAN: CARRY ME BACK TO OLD VIRGINNY.

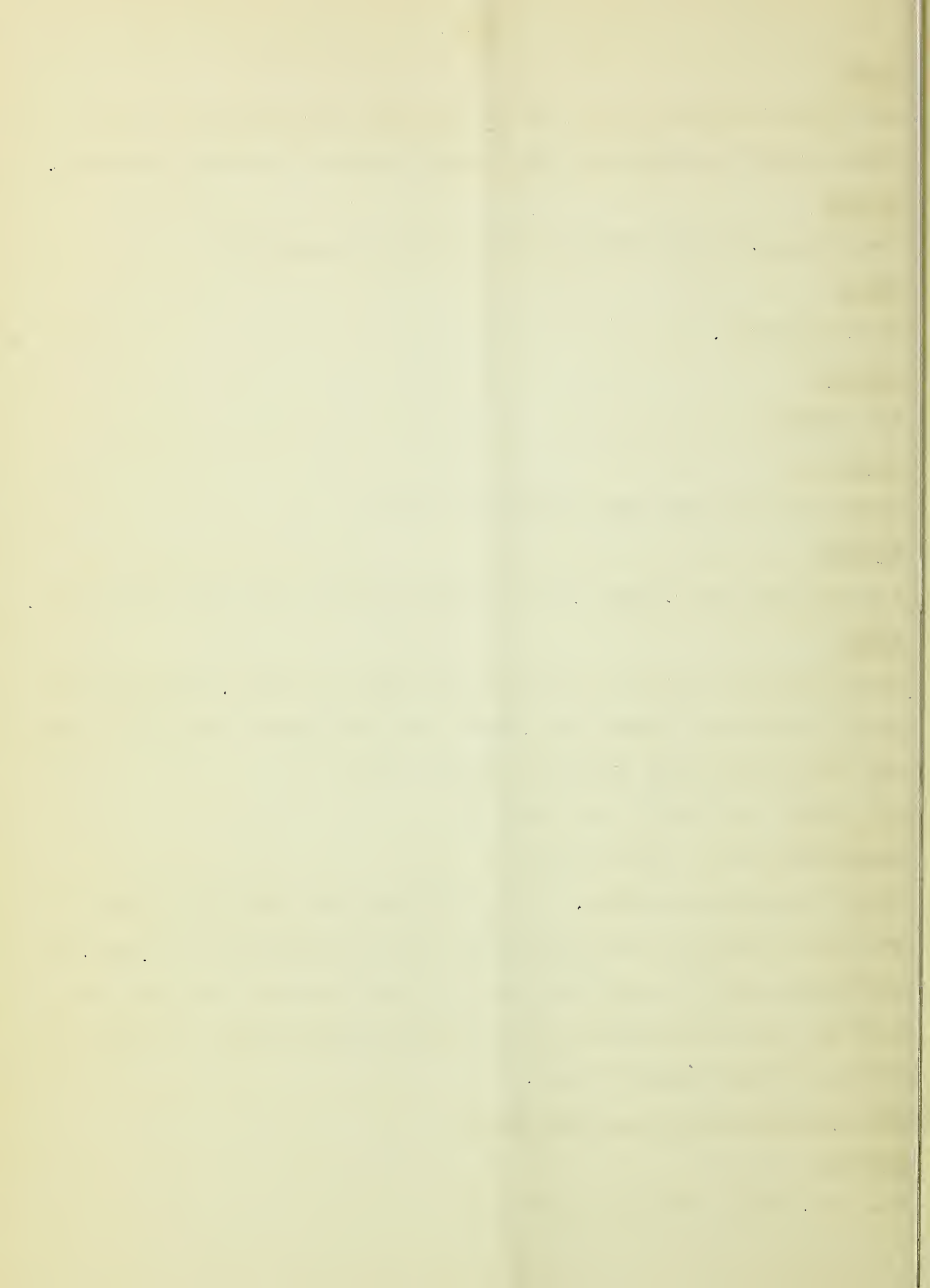
WASHINGTON (Voice out of past)

Keep the good land good. I do not believe with Jefferson that we can buy an acre of land cheaper than we can manure an old one. My countrymen are too much used to corn blades and corn shocks, and have too little knowledge of profit from grass lands. We must think of future generations.

SOUND: Knocking on door. Door opens.

MOTHER

Oh, Mr. Young! Come in, won't you?



YOUNG

No, thanks, Mrs. Greenlaw. I was coming out this way and they asked me to bring you this telegram.

MOTHER

A telegram! Who do you suppose it could be from?

YOUNG

Maybe it's from Hunter.

MOTHER

From Hunter! Good gracious, look at my hand shaking. Do you suppose...

YOUNG

Go ahead and read it. (chuckling) I already know what's in it.

SOUND: Envelope torn open.

MOTHER

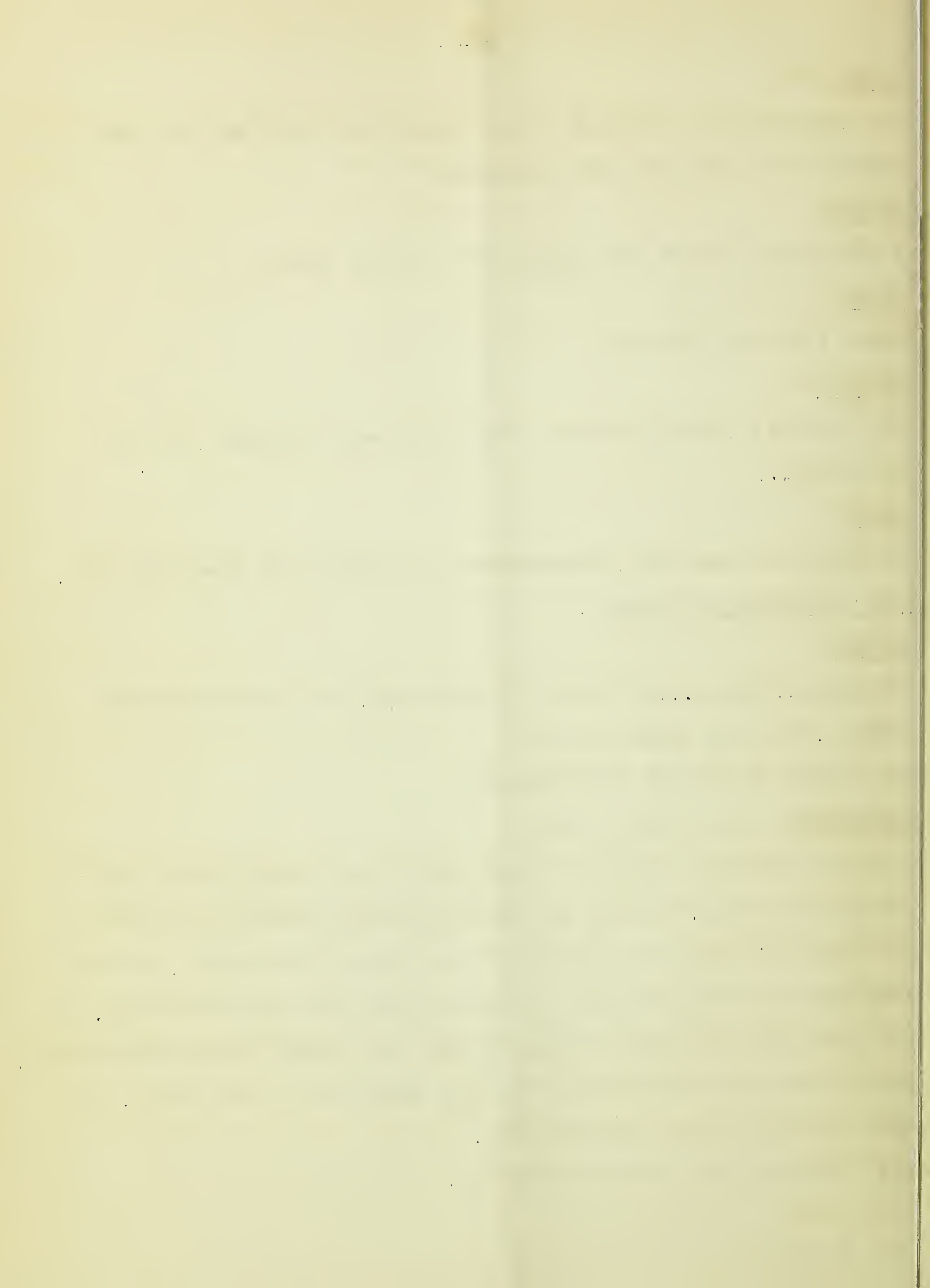
Awarded...title...Star Farmer of America...for Nineteen Thirty Eight. Oh! God bless my boy!

ORGAN: CARRY ME BACK TO OLD VIRGINNY.

WASHINGTON (Voice out of past)

A richer district by nature there cannot be, but soil wash will ravage the land. I raise my voice in warning against the sheet wash that is depriving farmers of the cream of the soil. As the land goes down the rivers, the farmer goes over the mountains. If the land will not yield kindly, it must be retired from cultivation, and covered with vegetation. We must take care of the land. We must think of future generations.

ORGAN: CARRY ME BACK TO OLD VIRGINNY.





ANNOUNCER

Today, leading farmers of the nation, men like Hunter Roy Greenlaw, are heeding the words of George Washington. They are making farming a successful business. They are taking care of the land. And today, as never before, alert farmers are working, striving, fighting...building up the soil, building a nation...America.

ORGAN: CARRY ME BACK TO OLD VIRGINNY.

ANNOUNCER

And now, we turn once again to the Dayton, Ohio, regional office of the Soil Conservation Service, and to Ewing Jones.

JONES

Thank you, \_\_\_\_\_. Now that we have things on a business basis, I want to point out one thing that Hunter Roy Greenlaw--and George Washington--realized, and that is, that the soil itself is the farmer's capital. Conserving the soil is essential if farming is to be a successful business. And that means conserving the moisture, too.

ANNOUNCER

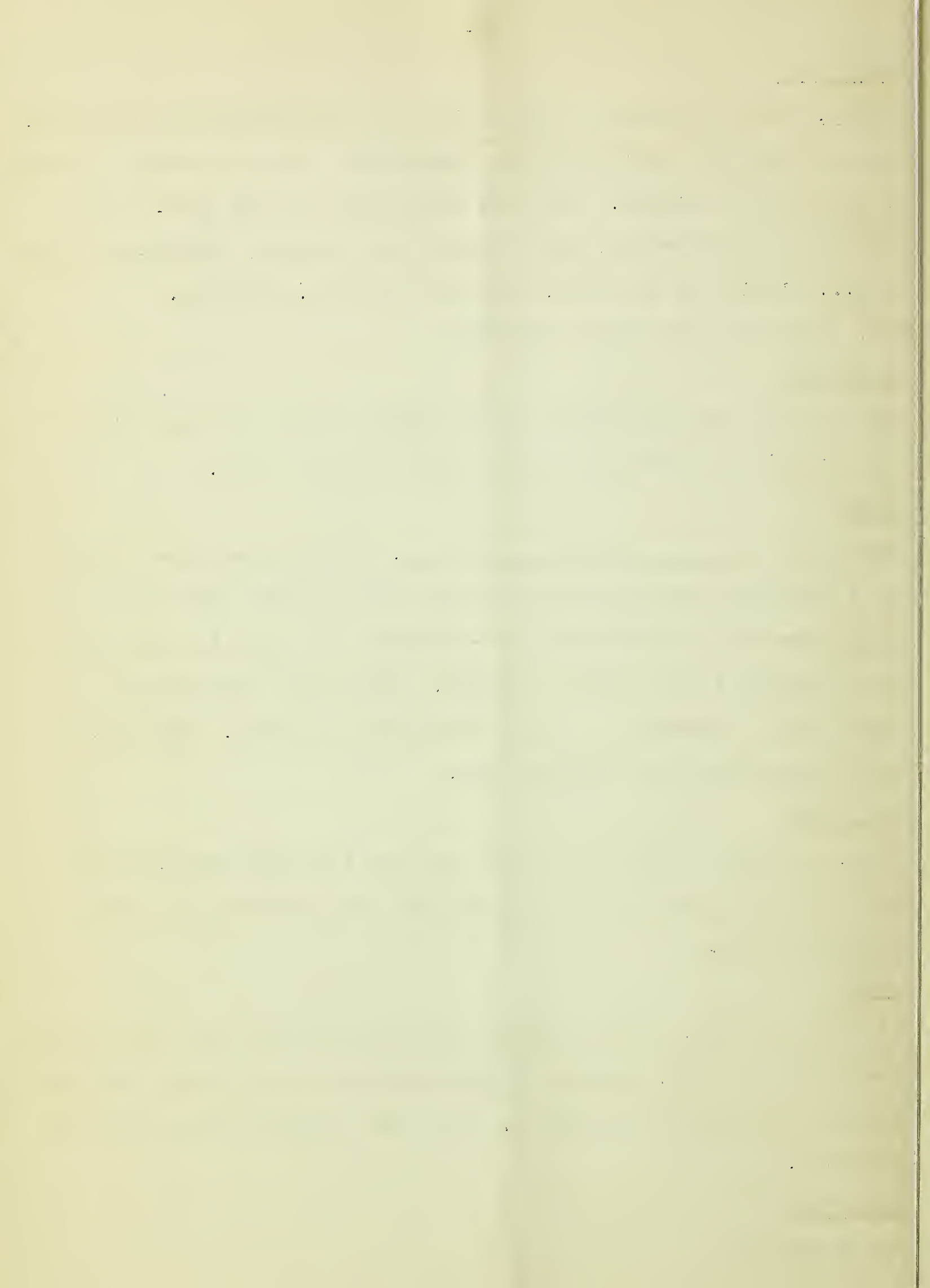
Well, from all of the water that has been flooding farmlands the past week, I think a lot of us have had that fact brought home rather vividly.

JONES

I'm sure we have. A lot of that water should have been held on the land where it fell, instead of washing down the slopes and into the streams, carrying soil with it. This new bulletin brings that out forcibly.

ANNOUNCER

May I see it?





JONES

Certainly, \_\_\_\_\_. The name of it is "The Land In Flood Control."

ANNOUNCER

Hmm. Say, I'd like to read this over. And look at those pictures!

JONES

I can't give you that copy, but if you'd like a copy for yourself, write to Soil Conservation, Dayton, Ohio, and ask for the bulletin on flood control.

ANNOUNCER

I'll do that very thing tonight. And that goes for the radio audience, too?

JONES

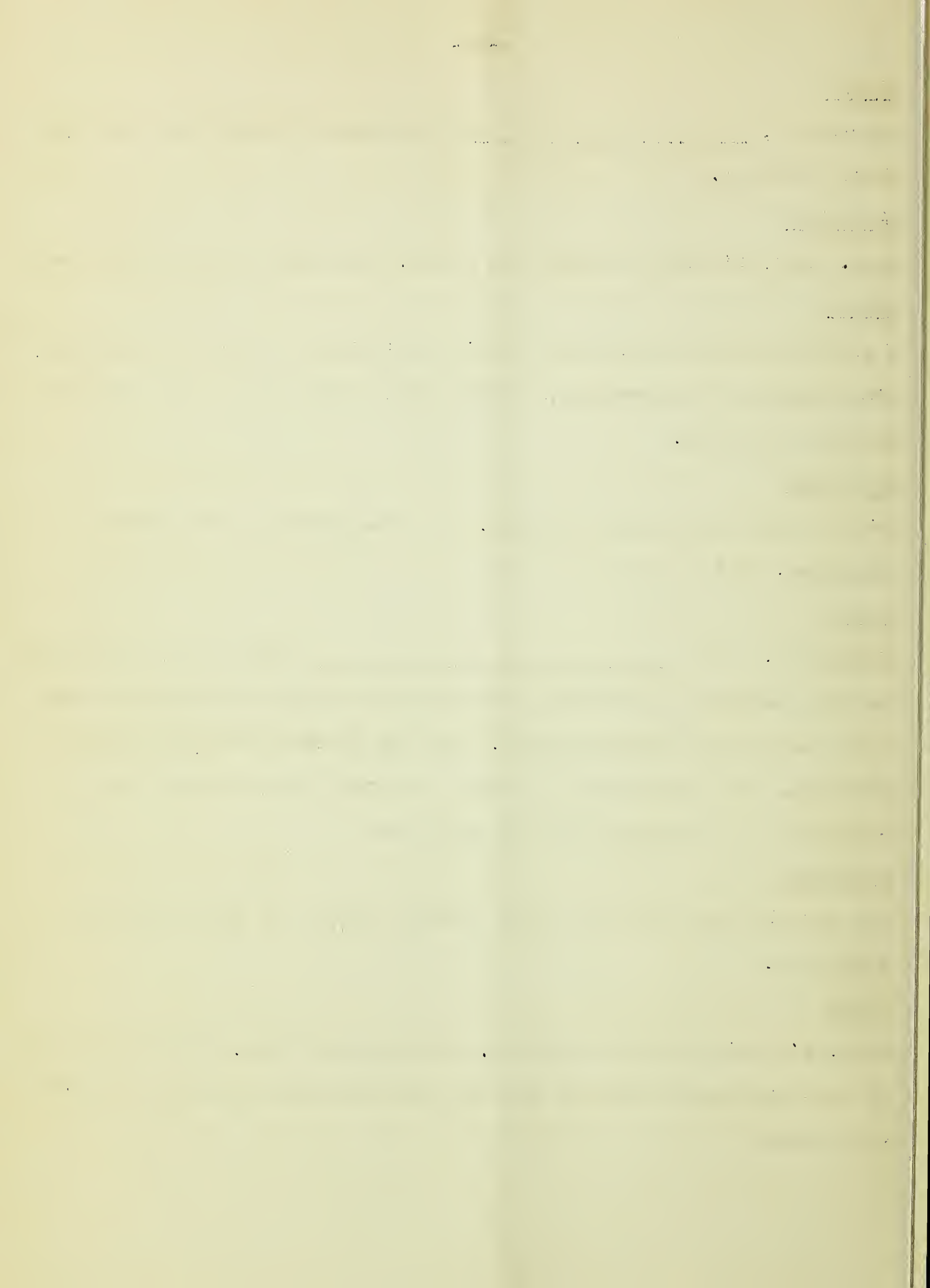
Certainly. Now, \_\_\_\_\_, most of the soil conserving methods in use today were known to Virginia farmers in the early part of the last century. You may be wondering, if these practices have been known so long, why they haven't been more effective in promoting soil conservation.

ANNOUNCER

You must be some sort of a mind reader, Ewing. I was wondering just that.

JONES

Well, I'm going to let Horton B. Alger answer that. He's in charge of farm management work in our regional office, so, Horton, what's the answer?



ALGER

The answer, Ewing, is found in the lack of agricultural organization of this earlier period. Today, vocational agriculture classes in high schools all over the nation are teaching the best known agricultural methods. Organizations such as the Future Farmers of America, 4-H Clubs, the state extension services, experiment stations, and all other agricultural agencies are pointing the way toward a more permanent agriculture.

JONES

Well, Horton, the Soil Conservation Service was established to demonstrate erosion control methods in cooperation with farmers in certain specified areas. The Greenlaw place, I believe, is one of those farms.

ALGER

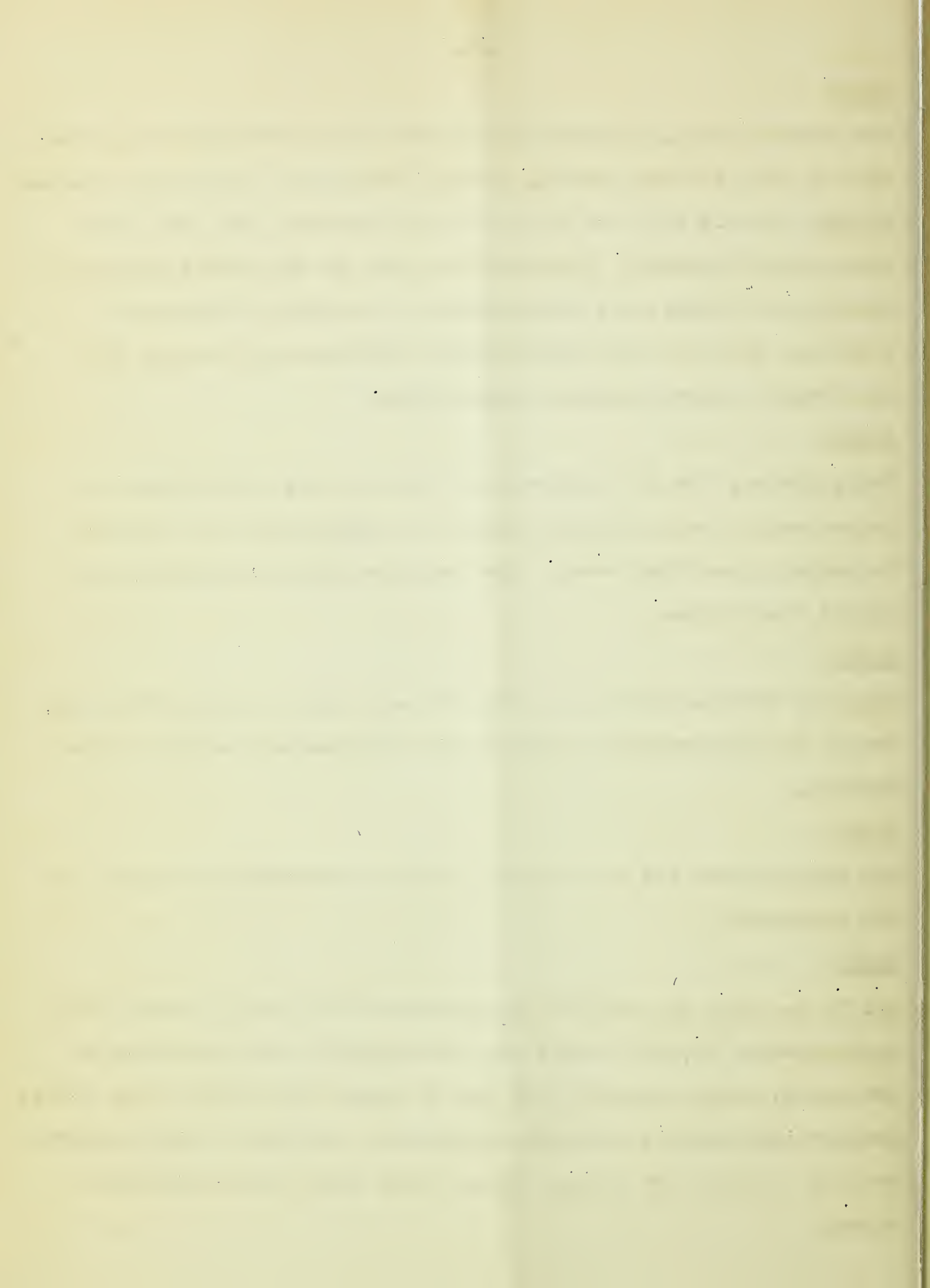
Yes, the Greenlaw farm is in the CCC camp area at Berea, Virginia, one of the demonstration areas in the Southeastern Region of the Service.

JONES

How many farmers are cooperating in this demonstration program in the Southeast?

ALGER

Dr. T. S. Buie, the regional conservator down there, reports that approximately 18,000 farmers are demonstrating such practices as terracing, strip cropping, the use of summer and winter cover crops, pasture improvement, woodland management, and other erosion control methods on their own farms. These farms total about 2,650,000 acres.





JONES

That brings up the question about a farm that isn't located in one of these erosion control areas. How can that farmer get assistance in planning his farm for erosion control?

ALGER

That question, Ewing, brings us to the last word in cooperative action among farmers; soil conservation districts. Farmers themselves in more than half the states of the union have organized soil conservation districts through which all of the farm agencies, federal and state, can cooperate more effectively with the farmers. Farmers in the Southeastern Region have organized 28 districts, comprising 21 million acres. In the district program, the Soil Conservation Service cooperates with district supervisors in furnishing technical assistance to farmers in establishing erosion control practices on their farms.

JONES

That sounds as if we've come a long way since days when Washington and other farmers had to depend on their own individual experiments to solve their farm problems. And thank you, Horton B. Alger. And I think you'll agree that success or failure still depends on the farmer himself. That is just as true in Hunter Roy Greenlaw's day as it was in the day of George Washington, 200 years ago.

SOUND: Thunder, followed by rain...

ANNOUNCER

If you would like a copy of the bulletin, "The Land in Flood Control," write to Soil Conservation, Dayton, Ohio. Next week, \_\_\_\_\_ . Fortunes Washed Away is a studio presentation of the agriculture department of the Nation's Station.

